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⑩ Stack type heat exchanger.

⑩ A stack type heat exchanger which comprises a plurality of tubular elements (31) including a tank section (34) at least at one end, the tubular elements (31) being adapted to allow a heat exchange medium to pass through, a plurality of air paths interposed between one tubular element (31) and the next, each of the air paths being provided with a fin member (32), wherein each tubular element (31) comprises a pair of metal tray members (35) jointed at their peripheries with an inner plate (36) interposed therebetween, wherein each inner plate (36) is provided with projections (50) on its top surfaces and undersurfaces so that the flow of the medium is blocked by the projections (50) so as to enlarge the effective area for heat transfer between the medium and the tubular elements (31).

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Description

STACK TYPE HEAT EXCHANGER

The present invention relates to a stack type heat exchanger and more particularly to a stack type heat exchanger for use as a vaporizer in a car cooling system and oil cooler wherein the heat exchanger comprising a plurality of tubular elements, including an inner fin member, are stacked horizontally or vertically with the interposition of air paths between one tubular element and the next, each of the air paths including an outer fin member.

There is generally known all-purpose stack type heat exchangers which comprise a plurality of tubular elements stacked with the interposition of outer fins between one tubular element and the next, wherein each tubular element comprises a pair of metal plates of thermal conductivity having a tank at least at one end for storing a heat exchange medium. The known heat exchangers of this type are advantageous in that they withstand varying loads applied thereto and exhibit good performance for its limited capacity.

In order to enhance the efficiency of heat exchange the metal plates are provided with numerous projections and recesses so as to enlarge the effective area for heat transfer (e.g. Japanese Utility Model Laid-Open Specification No. 59-116787). There is another proposal for using a corrugated plate as an inner fin member, which is shown by the reference numeral 100 in Figure 24 of this specification.

However it has been found that the uneven surfaces of the metal plates in the first-mentioned proposal is not as effective to increase the area for heat transfer as it is expected, thereby resulting in the limited increase in the efficiency of heat exchange. In the second-mentioned proposal the corrugated plates provide straightforward medium paths, which causes the medium to flow straight. The straightforward flow, though it means a smooth or trouble-free flow, is nevertheless not very effective to increase the effective area for heat exchange.

It is generally appreciated that the inner fins reinforce the tubular elements against a possible compression. However the tubular elements are liable to an elongating stress, particularly when the medium is gasifiable. Under this elongating stress the tubular element tend to become deformed or broken in their joints.

An object of this is to provide an improved stack type heat exchanger capable of exchanging heat efficiently whilst withstanding internal and external stresses inflicted by the passing heat exchange medium.

According to the present invention a stack type heat exchanger comprises a plurality of tubular elements including a tank section at one end at least the tubular elements being adapted to allow a heat exchange medium to pass through, a plurality of air paths interposed between one tubular element and the next, each of the air paths being provided with a fin member characterized in that each tubular element comprises a pair of metal tray members

5 jointed at their peripheries with an inner plate interposed therebetween, each inner plate is provided with projections on its top surfaces and undersurface so that the flow of the medium is blocked by the projections so as to enlarge the effective area of contact between the medium and the tubular elements.

10 The invention will now be described further, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is an exploded prospective view of a heat exchanger, according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a front view showing a horizontal stack type heat exchanger;

Fig. 3 is a cross-section on the line III-III of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged cross-section showing a part of the heat exchanger of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a cross-section showing a tank section of the heat exchanger;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing an example of inner fins provided in each tubular exchanger;

Fig. 7 is a diagrammatic plan showing the inner fins particularly to show the flows of the heat exchange medium;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view showing another example of the inner fins;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view showing a further example of the inner fins;

Fig. 10 is a cross-section on the line X-X of Fig. 9;

Fig. 11 is a perspective view showing another example of the inner fins;

Fig. 12 is a cross-section showing a heat exchanger incorporating the inner fins of Fig. 11;

Fig. 13 is a cross-section showing a tank section of the heat exchanger of Fig. 12;

Fig. 14 is a plan showing the inner plate of Fig. 11;

Fig. 15 is a cross-section on the line XV-XV of Fig. 14;

Fig. 16 is a diagrammatic plan showing the medium flowing through the inner fins of Fig. 14;

Fig. 17 is a perspective view showing yet another example of the inner fins;

Fig. 18 is a cross-section showing a heat exchanger incorporating the inner fins of Fig. 17;

Fig. 19 is a cross-section showing a tank section of the heat exchanger of Fig. 18;

Fig. 20 is an enlarged perspective view showing the inner fins of Fig. 17;

Fig. 21 is a cross-section on the line XXI-XXI of Fig. 20;

Fig. 22 is a cross-section on the line XXII-XXII of Fig. 20;

Fig. 23 is a plan showing the inner plate of Fig. 17; and

Fig. 24 is a perspective view showing a known inner fin made of a corrugated plate.

Referring to Fig. 2 there are provided planar tubular elements 31 horizontally arranged in a stack, with the interposition of outer fins 32 between one tubular element and the next.

As best shown in Fig. 3 the tubular element 31 includes a passage 33 for passing a heat exchange medium through. Each tubular element 31 includes tanks 34 located at its opposite ends, the tanks 34 communicating with the medium passage 33 and being soldered one after another.

As shown in Fig. 1 the tubular element 31 is made up of two tray members 35, which are jointed with an inner plate 36 being interlocated. For explanation convenience one of the tray members 35 is referred to as a lower tray member and the other is as an upper tray member. Each tray member 35 has a concave bottom and the two members 35 are jointed with their concave bottoms being faced to each other as best shown in Fig. 5, so as to produce a fairly widened space 35a therebetween.

The tray member 35 includes raised sections 35b at opposite ends, the raised sections having apertures 35c which communicate with the apertures 36c of the inner plate 36. These apertures 35c and 36c are intended as medium passageways. The tray member 35 has rims 38 along the periphery thereof, the rims 38 being bent to constitute dew collecting troughs 39 as shown in Figs. 3 and 5. The rim 38 includes side walls 40 and a flat eave 41 as shown in Fig. 4. The reference numeral 42 denotes a guard wall. The tray member 35 is made of pressed aluminium.

The inner plate 36, made of aluminium, has edges 36a at opposite sides, the edges being extended into spaces 44 defined by the side walls 40 as best shown in Fig. 4. The inner plate 36 is provided with fins 37 so as to fill the medium passage 33 when the tray members 35 are jointed to each other. The fins 37 are made up of rectangular projections 50, which are arranged at equal intervals in straight lines perpendicular to the flow direction (H) of the medium and which are arranged in zigzag manners in the flow direction (H) of the medium as shown in Fig. 6 and 7. Because of the zigzag arrangements of the projections 50 the flow of the medium is blocked by one projection after another. Each projection has open ends in a direction perpendicular to the flow direction (H) of the medium and has a height equal to that of the adjacent one. The height of the projections 50 are determined so that they are fit in the space defined by the two tray members 35 as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. The fins 37 are used to reinforce the passage 33 and increase the efficiency of heat exchange.

The two tray members 35 are soldered to each other in the manner shown in Fig. 3, 4 and 5, thereby constituting a unitary body as the planar tubular element 31. In Fig. 1 the reference numeral 45 denotes drains through which the collected dew water is discharged.

The outer fin 32 is made of a corrugated aluminium plate and has a width equal to that of the tubular element 31. As referred to above the outer fins are

fixedly sandwiched between one tubular element 31 and the next and also jointed to the flat eaves 41. Preferably the corrugated plate is provided with louvers.

5 In Fig. 2 the reference numerals 46 and 46' denote side plates whereby the group of the outer fins 32 is framed. The medium is introduced into the heat exchange through an inlet header 47 and discharged through an outlet header 47'. The inlet 47 is connected to an inlet pipe 48 and the outlet header 48' is connected to an outlet pipe 48'.

10 In operation, the medium is introduced into the tubular element of the lowest row through the pipe 48 and flows throughout all the tubular elements, during which heat is exchanged between the medium and the air flowing in the direction (W) through the outer fins 32. The medium is discharged from the outlet header 47' through the outlet pipe 48' to a compressor (not shown). In the tubular elements 31 the flow of the medium is blocked by the projections 50 as described above, thereby agitating the medium. This increases the effective area of contact between the molecules of the medium and the projections 50, thereby leading to the efficient transfer of heat. Each tubular element is liable to elongating stresses under which the tanks 34 and the concave bottoms 33 tend to be expanded outward but the inner plate 36 are effective to protect them against a possible deformation and breakage. In addition, the joint between the tray members 35 is protected against disengagement. Furthermore, because of the plurality of the apertures 36c an undesirable stay of the medium is avoided, thereby protecting the tubular elements against a possible breakage. In addition the tubular element 31 is protected by the projections 50 of the inner fins 37 against a possible detrimental compression acting from above or below, or both. Thus the heat exchanger withstands a long period of use.

15 20 25 30 35 40 45 While heat exchange is going on between the air and the medium, water tends to come out of the moisture-contained air. The dew water is forced in the downstream direction along the top surfaces of the tubular elements 31 and finally falls into the troughs 39 as indicated by the arrow (A). The water is discharged out of the heat exchanger through the drains 45.

50 55 60 65 Another route of water coming from the dew is indicated by the arrow (B) in Fig. 4. This route of water comes partly from the outer fins 32 and partly from the overflow troughs 39. It is obstructed by the edges 36a of the inner plates 36 from dropping and is guided for discharge out of the heat exchanger. In this way the tubular elements are kept free from the dew water, thereby preventing the water droplets from flying about together with the air. This obviates the commonly called "flash troubles" which inflict the people in the car.

The embodiment shown in Fig. 8 has modified projections 60, which are arranged with flat portions 36d being interposed between one projection and the next along with width of the inner plate 36.

The embodiment shown in Figs. 9 and 10 has further modified projections 70, which are semi-hexagonal unlike the above mentioned rectangular

projections 50 and 60.

Fig. 11 shows a further modification of the projections; each of the modified projections 80 is made up of upward and downward projections. As shown in Figs. 11, 14 and 15 the inner plate is initially provided with slits each being parallel with the other and press d so that the slits are shaped into semi-hexagonal projections as best shown in Fig. 15. The projections 80 are arranged along the width of the inner plate 36, that is, in a direction perpendicular to the flow direction (H) (Fig. 14) of the medium in such a manner that the upward and downward projections 80 are alternate in a row. In contrast they are arranged in lines in the flow direction (H) of the medium. Preferably each projection 80 is produced at a given angle θ to the flowing direction (H) of the medium; in the illustrated embodiment the angle is 45°. In addition each five rows and the succeeding five rows are different in their flow direction (H) of the medium. This consideration is intended to enable the medium to flow in a zigzag manner. The upward and downward projections have such a height as to keep contact with the tray members 35 jointed to each other.

Because of the unique shapes and arrangement of the projections 80 the medium is well agitated and flows in zigzag ways as indicated by the arrows (h) in Fig. 16. The collision of the medium with the projections 80 leads to the efficient transfer of heat between the molecules of the medium and the tray members 37.

Fig. 17 shows another modified version of the projections; each of these modified projections 90 includes a first guide wall 91 and a second guide wall 92. The first guide wall 91 is to cause the flow of the medium to descend to below the inner plate 36 and the second guide wall 92 is to cause it to ascend to above the inner plate 36. The first guide wall 91 includes a first roof portion 911 having an opening 911a upstream of the flow of the medium and a second roof portion 912 having an opening 912a downstream thereof. The first roof portion 911 is upward on the top surface of the inner plate 36, whereas the second roof portion 912 is downward on the undersurface thereof. The second guide wall 92 includes a first roof portion 921 and a second roof portion 922. The first roof portion 921 is downward on the undersurface of the inner plate 36 and has an opening 921a upstream of the flow of the medium and the second roof portion 922 is upward on the top surface of the inner plate 36 and has an opening 922a downstream of the flow of the medium. The first and second guide walls 91 and 92 are arranged alternately in a direction perpendicular to the flow direction (H) (Fig. 20) and arranged in rows along the length of the inner plate 36 with the interposition of flat portions 36e. These guide walls 91, 92 have a sufficient height to keep contact with the tubular elements 31.

In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 17 the medium flowing above the inner plate is caused to flow into the openings 911a and 912a and urged to below the inner plate 36 as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 20. Then the medium flows into the

openings 921a and 922a, is urged to above the inner plate 36 and branched into the left- and right-hand directions. In this way it is again urged downward. This rise and fall of the flow of the medium take place around every projection, thereby agitating the medium as indicated by the arrows (h) in Figs 20 to 23. As described above the frequent collision of the medium with the projections increases the effective area for heat transfer between the medium and the tubular elements 31.

Claims

- 5 1. A stack type heat exchanger which comprises a plurality of tubular elements (31) each including a tank section (34) at one end at least, the tubular elements being adapted to allow a heat exchange medium to pass through, a plurality of air paths interposed between one tubular element and the next, each of the air paths being provided with a fin member (32), characterized in that each tubular element (31) comprises a pair of metal tray members (35) jointed at their peripheries with an inner plate (36) interposed therebetween, each inner plate (36) is provided with projections (50) on its top surfaces and undersurfaces so that the flow of the medium is blocked by the projections (50) so as to enlarge the effective area of contact between the medium and the tubular elements (31).
- 10 2. A stack type heat exchanger according to claim 1, characterized in that the projections (50) of the inner plate (36) are arranged in a zigzag manner on the top surface and undersurface.
- 15 3. A stack type heat exchanger according to claim 1, characterized in that the projections (50) of the inner fin (32) are arranged at a given angle to the flow direction of the medium.
- 20 4. A stack type heat exchanger according to claim 3, characterized in that every given number of projections are arranged at different angles to the flow direction of the medium.
- 25 5. A stack type heat exchanger according to claim 1, characterized in that each of the projections (90) comprises a first guide wall (91) for guiding the flow of the medium to descend below the inner plate (36) and a second guide wall (92) for guiding the same flow of the medium to rise above the inner plate (36), thereby securing the rise and fall of the medium flow through the inner plate (36).
- 30 6. A stack type heat exchanger according to claim 5, characterized in that the first guide wall (91) comprises a first roof member (911) on the top surface of the inner plate (36), the first roof member having an opening (911a) upstream of the flow of the medium and a second roof member (912) provided on the undersurface of the inner plate (36), the second roof member (912) having an opening (912a) downstream of the flow of the medium, the second guide wall (92) comprising a first roof member (921) on the
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undersurface of the inner plat (36), the first roof member (921) having an opening (921a) upstream of the flow of the medium and a second roof member (922) on the top surface of the inner plate (36), the second roof member (922) having an opening (922a) downstream of the flow of the medium.

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7. A stack type heat exchanger according to claim 6, characterized in that the first guide wall (91) and the second guide wall (92) are arranged alternately along the width of the inner plate and are arranged in rows at given intervals along the length thereof.

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8. A stack type heat exchanger according to claim 1, characterized in that the tubular elements (31) and the outer fins (32) are alternately stacked horizontally.

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9. A stack type heat exchanger according to claim 8, characterized in that each of the tubular elements comprises a trough (39) provided at the air exit side of the periphery thereof.

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10. A stack type heat exchanger according to claim 9, characterized in that the inner plate (36) extends into the trough (39) so as to guide a dew water out of the heat exchanger.

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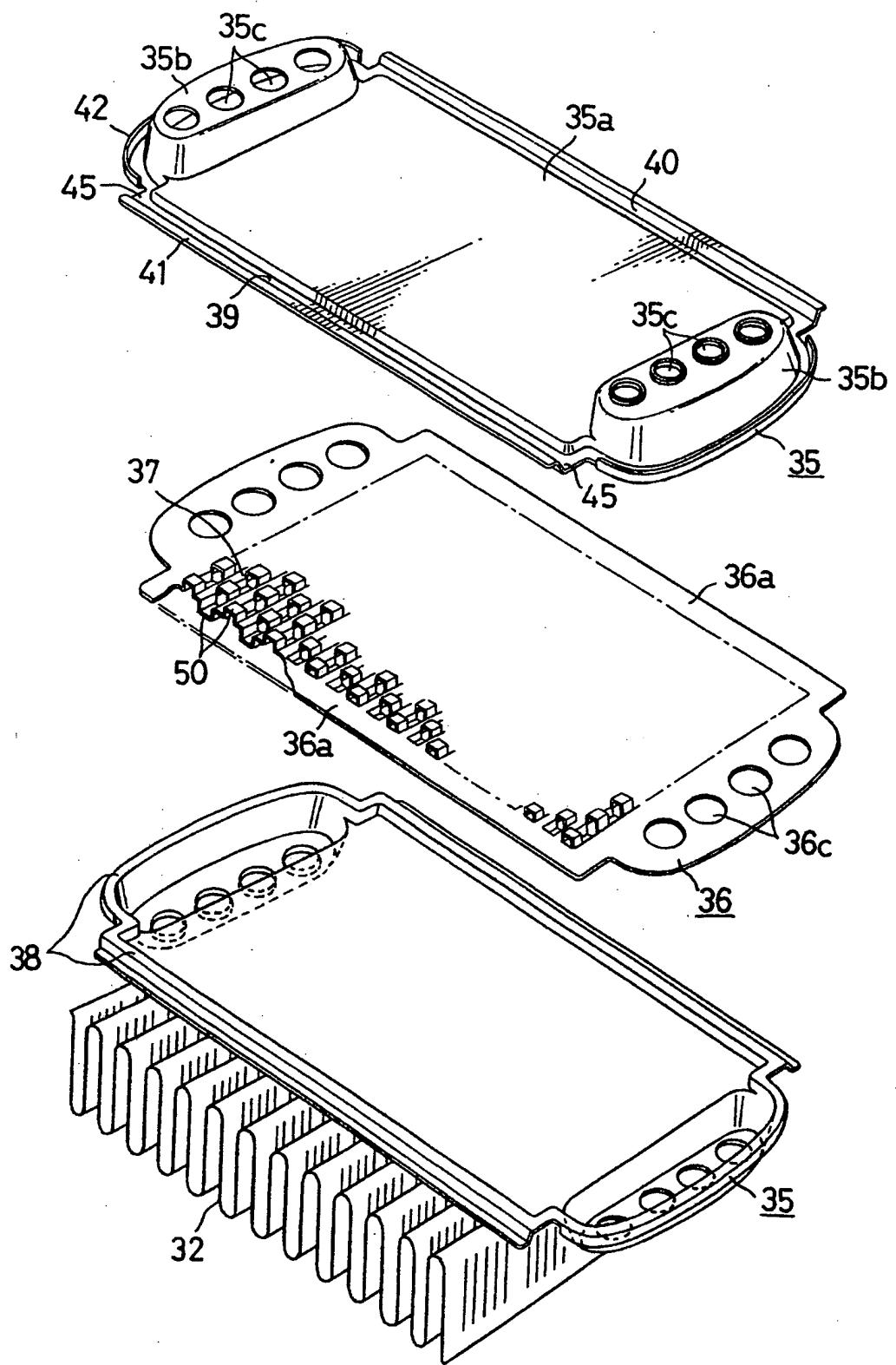


FIG. 1

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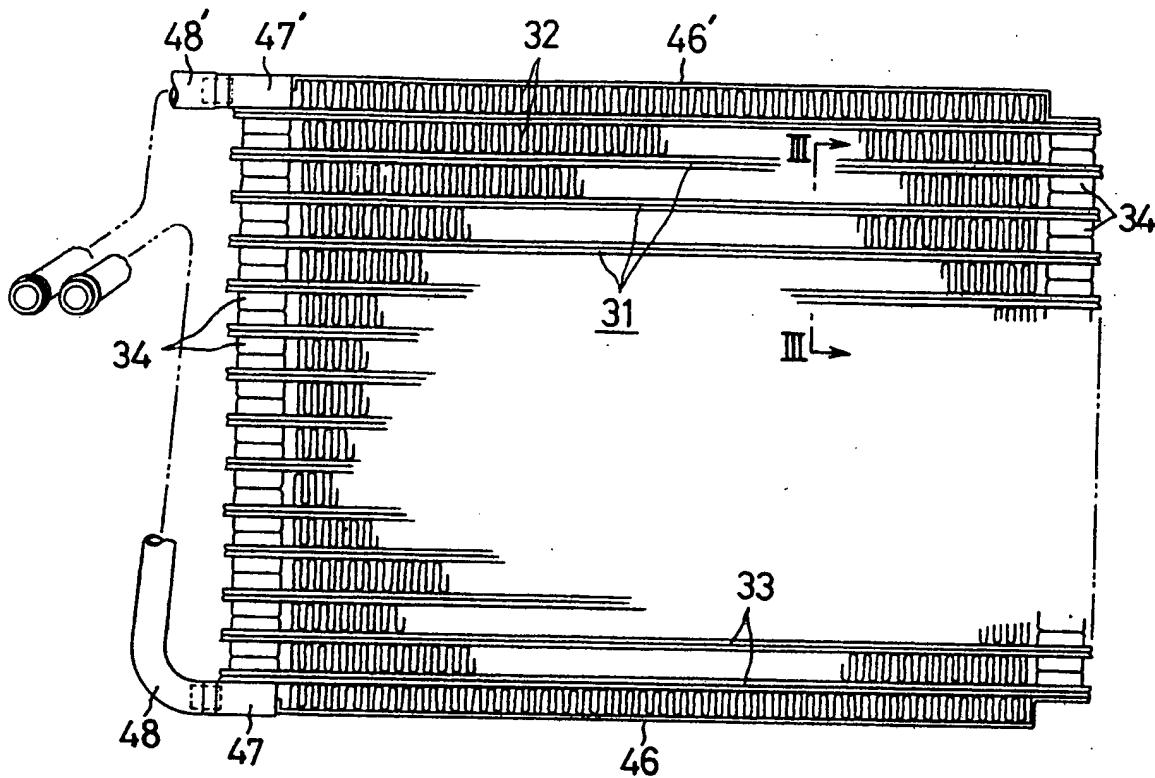


FIG. 2

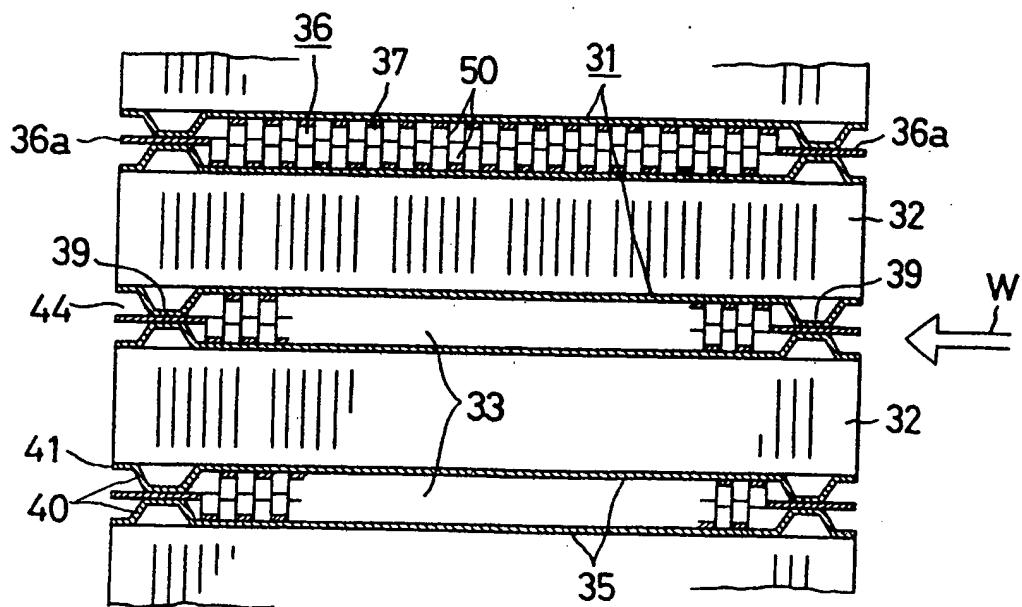


FIG. 3

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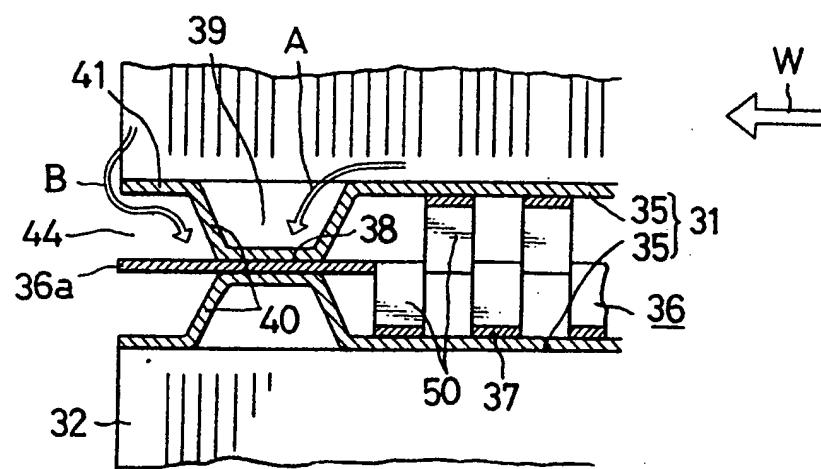


FIG. 4

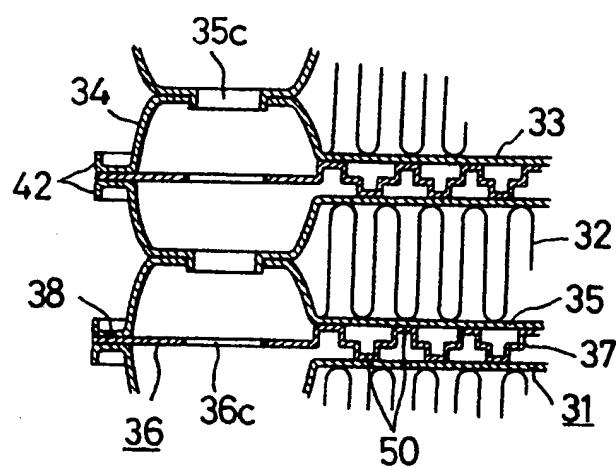


FIG. 5

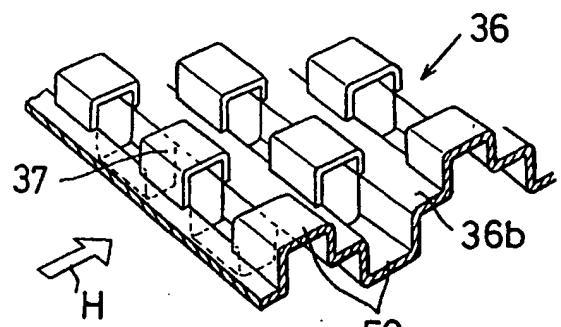


FIG. 6

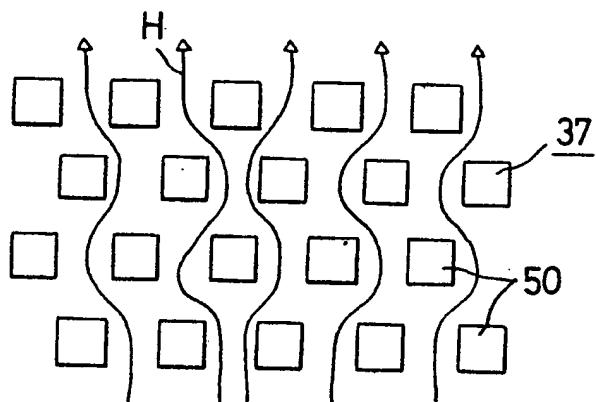


FIG. 7

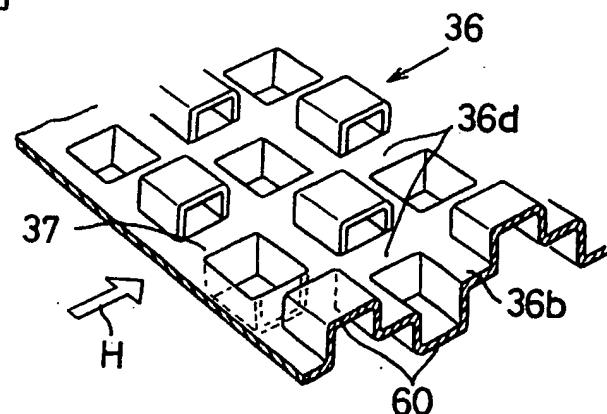


FIG. 8

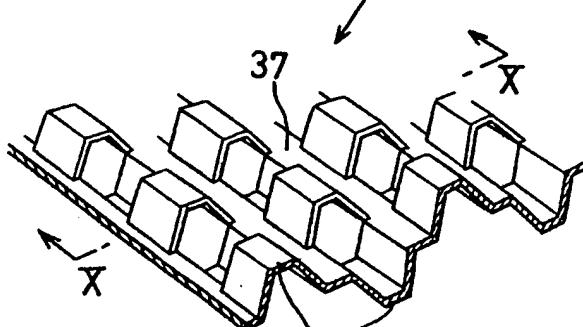


FIG. 9

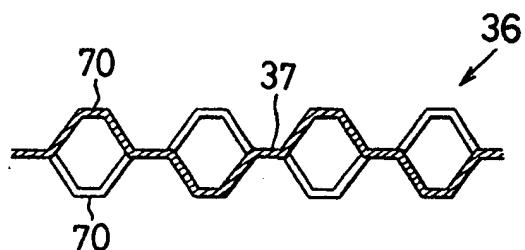
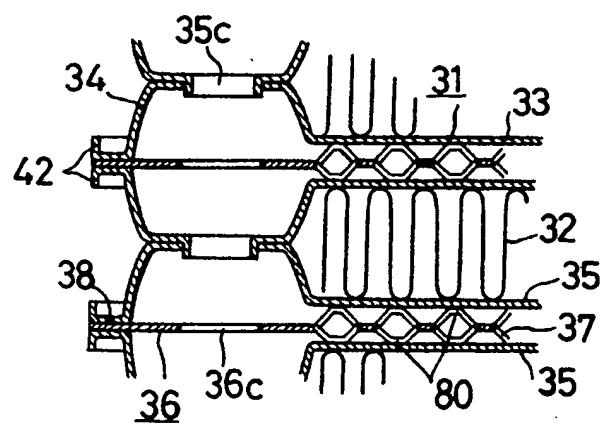
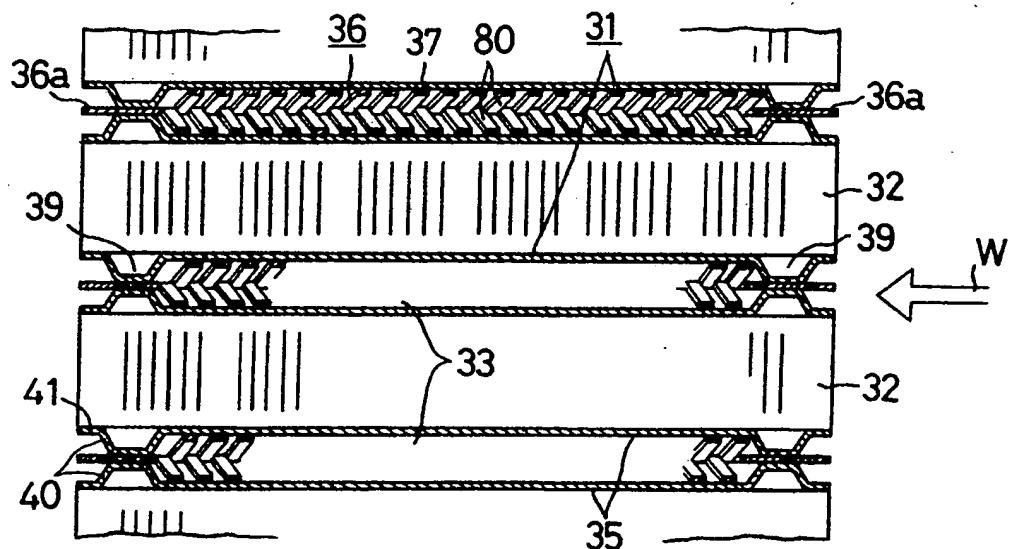
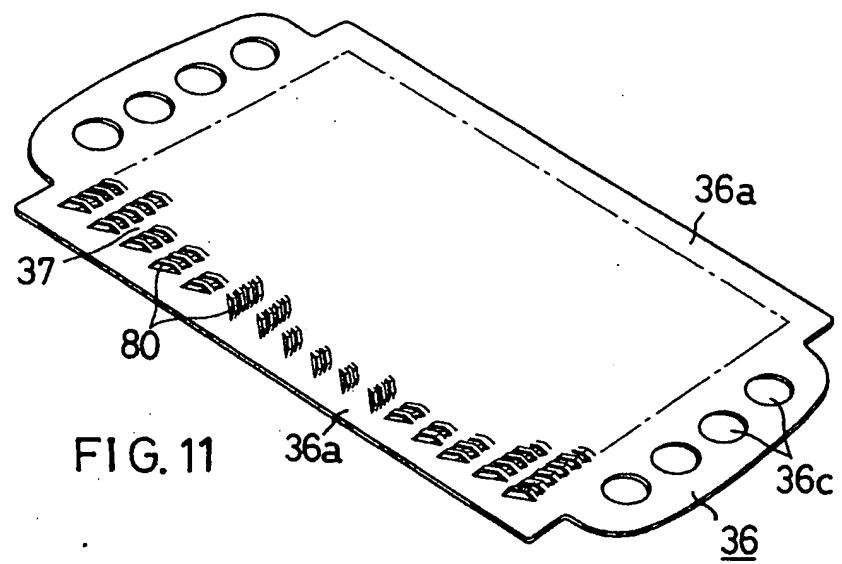


FIG. 10



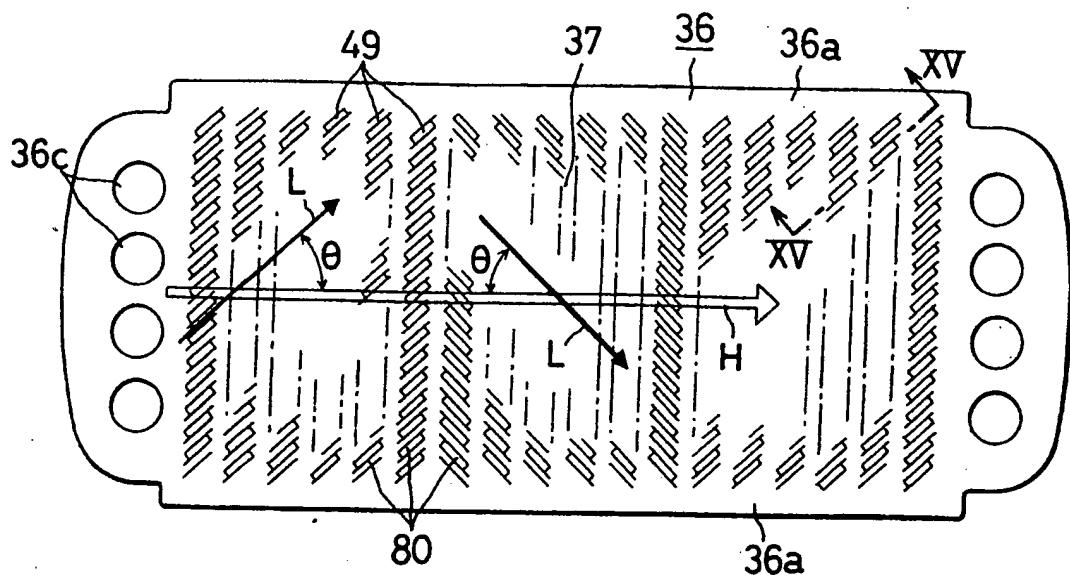


FIG. 14

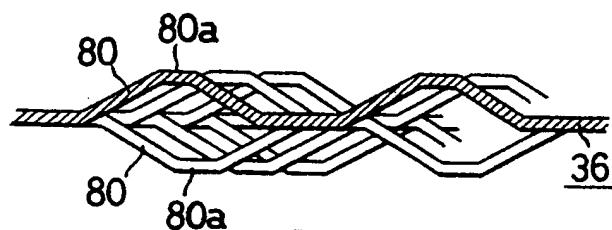


FIG. 15

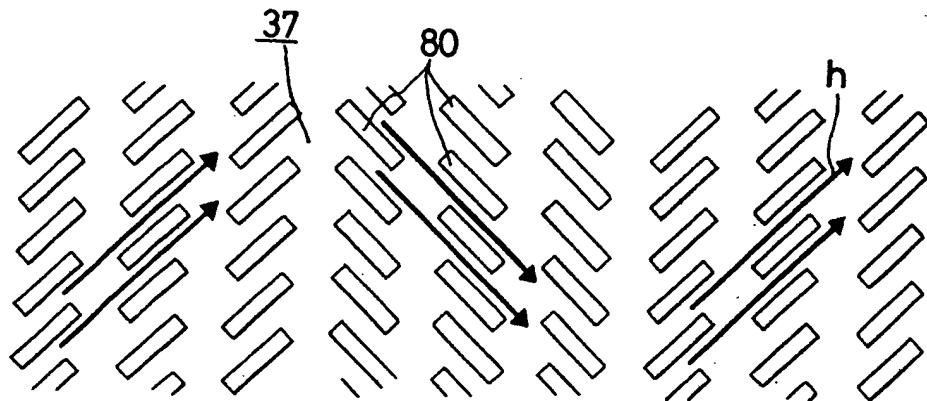


FIG. 16

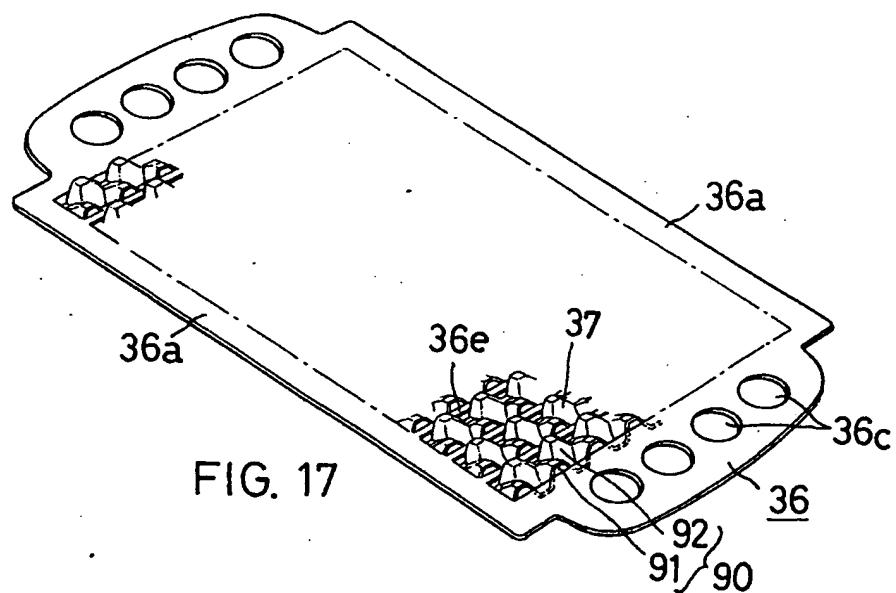


FIG. 17

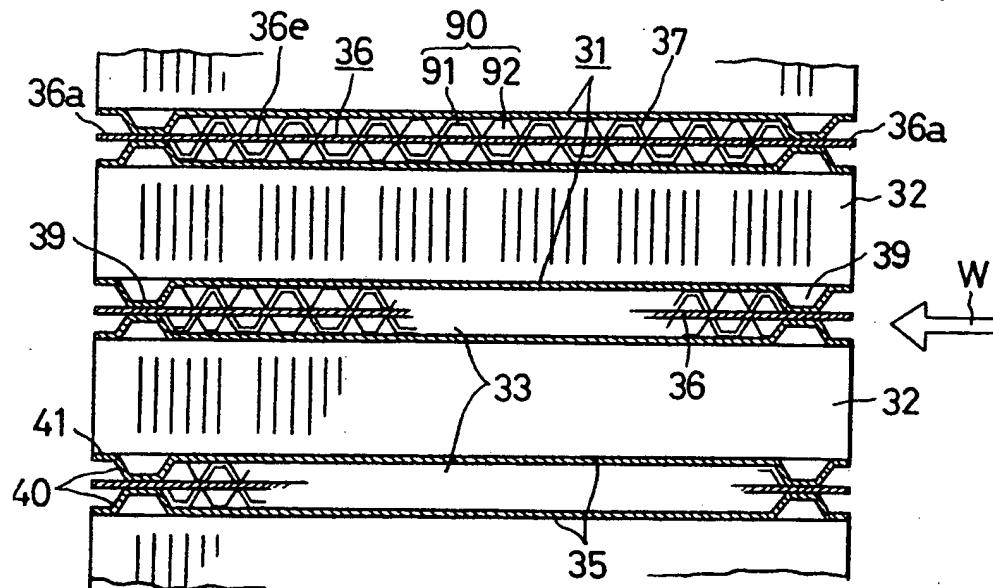


FIG. 18

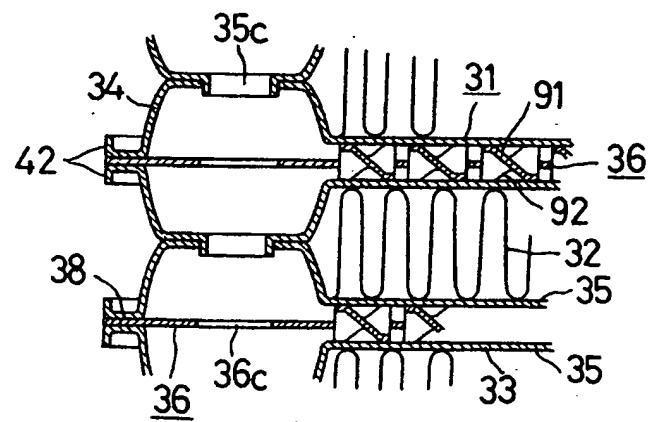


FIG. 19

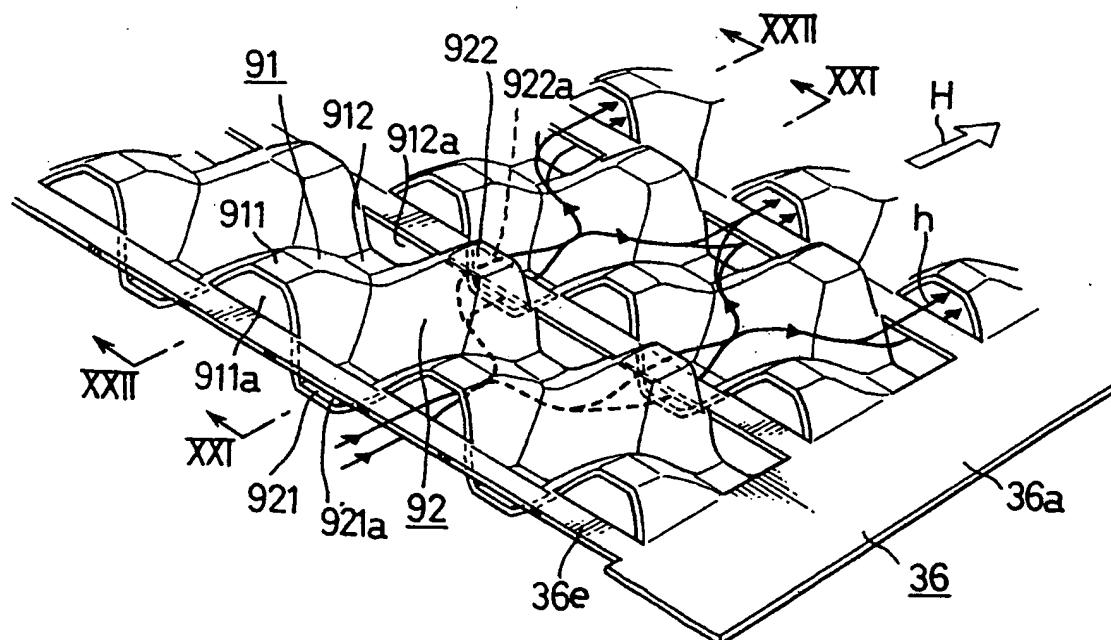


FIG. 20

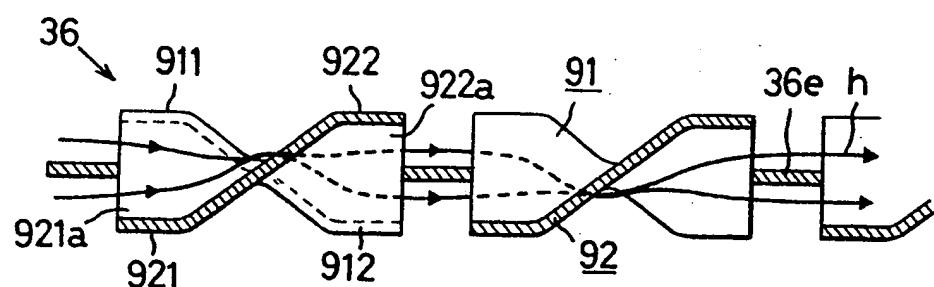


FIG. 21

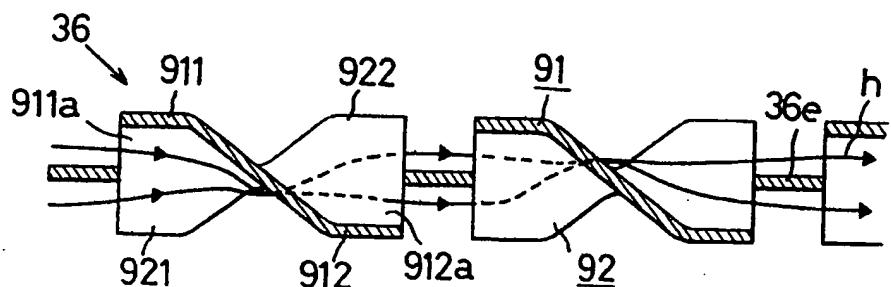
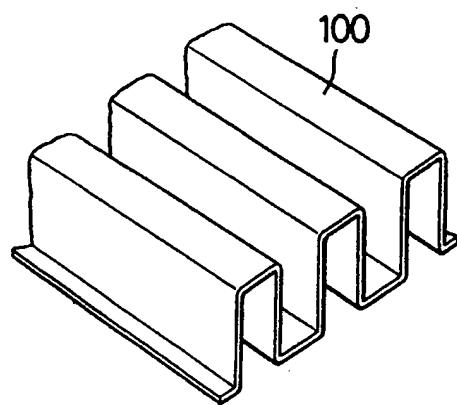
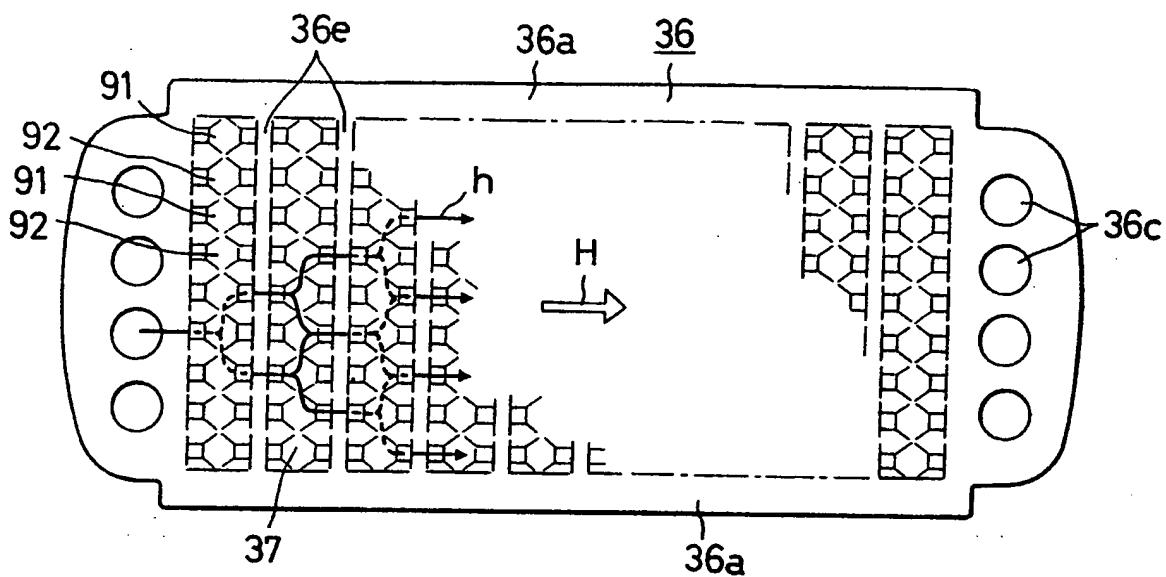


FIG. 22

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EP 87 30 1717

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	FR-A-1 521 595 (CHAUSSON) * Page 1, column 1, lines 8-18, 27-35; column 2, lines 33-41; page 2, column 1, lines 1-17, 45-56; column 2, lines 1-8; figures 1-7 *	1,2,8	F 28 D 1/02 F 28 F 3/08
Y	---	3,5	
Y	FR-A-2 230 952 (LÄNGERER & REICH) * Figures 3,6 *	3	
Y	---	5	
X	FR-A-2 538 094 (GENERAL MOTORS) * Figure 4 *	1,2,8	
A	FR-A-2 298 075 (BORG-WARMER) * Figures 9-11 *	4	
A	DE-B-1 074 063 (GEA-LUFTKÜHLER) * Figures *		
P,X	DE-A-3 536 325 (OKAMOTO et al.) -----	1,2,8, 9	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	09-06-1987	HOERNELL, L.H.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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